

Remarks

Claim 5 has been amended, and claims 5 and 44-57 remain in the application, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the amended claims.

Applicants appreciate the opportunity to conduct an interview with the Examiner on June 19, 2007 during which the amended claim 5 and Fisch (U.S. Patent No. Re. 35,589) were discussed. The Examiner agreed that the noncontiguous spacer segments recited in amended claim 5 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the basis of Fisch.

Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reciting additional spacer bars over those recited in claim 5. Claim 5 recites a pair of spacer segments extending contiguously with a full length of a different one of the longitudinal edges of the cover slip. Claim 56 is directed to additional spacer bars, for example, spacer segments 62, 64 shown in Fig. 1C. Applicants submit that claim 56 is not indefinite, and that the rejection of claim 56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues and expedite the allowance of this application.

Application No. 10/021,602
Amendment dated June 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 21, 2007

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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C. Richard Eby, Reg. No. 25,854

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